

Message Text

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12

ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OIC-02 NRC-07 FEA-01 ACDA-10 CIAE-00

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 EB-07 OES-05 DODE-00 OMB-01

TRSE-00 ABF-01 PM-04 SP-02 SS-15 PA-02 USIA-15 PRS-01

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6500

INFO USERDA GERMANTOWN PRIORITY

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TAGS: OCON, AORG, PARM, TECH, IAEA

SUBJECT: IAEA 19 TH GENERAL CONFERENCE: AN ASSESSMENT

REF: (A) IAEA VIENNA 8300; (B) IAEA VIENNA 8274

SUMMARY: IN TERMS BOTH OF INTEREST SHOWN BY MEMBER STATES AND OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS ACHIEVED IN SUBSTANTIVE AREAS OF AGENCY'S WORK, 19 TH SESSION OF IAEA GENERAL CONFERENCE WAS A SUCCESS. CONSIDERABLE SUPPORT WAS EXPRESSED FOR NEW CONCEPT OF REGIONAL NUCLEAR FUEL CENTERS AS WELL AS FOR INTERNATIONAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR PHYSICAL PROTECTION OF NUCLEAR MATERIALS AND FACILITIES. DEBATE IN PLENARY AND COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE WAS, IN THE MAIN, SERIOUS AND WELL-ORDERED. EXTRANEIOUS POLITICAL ISSUES, WHILE NOT ABSENT FROM GC, WERE GENERALLY LOW-KEY. END SUMMARY.

1. PROBABLY AS RESULT OF INCREASED WORLD ATTENTION

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TO NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION ISSUE AS WELL AS TO GROW-

ING WORLD ENERGY NEEDS, 19TH GC OF IAEA WAS ATTENDED BY DELEGATES FROM MORE MEMBER STATES THAN EVER BEFORE IN AGENCY'S 17-YEAR HISTORY (90 OUT OF 106 MEMBERS.). SIZE OF DELEGATIONS WAS ALSO LARGER (CUBAN DELEGATION, FOR EXAMPLE. NUMBERED 9 THIS YEAR, COMPARED TO 3 IN 1974). HEIGHTENED INTEREST IN AGENCY'S ACTIVITIES WAS ALSO EVIDENT IN UNPRECEDENTED COMPETITION AMONG MEMBERS FOR ELECTION TO AGENCY'S BOARD OF GOVERNORS (REF A).

2. US DEL RECEIVED MEMBER OF EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST IN SECRETARY'S SEPTEMBER 22 SPEECH AT UN PROPOSING ESTABLISHMENT OF REGIONAL NUCLEAR FUEL CENTERS (MISSION HAD RELEVANT PORTIONS OF SECRETARY'S SPEECH REPRODUCED AND DISTRIBUTED TO ALL DELEGATIONS). PRESS REPS, INCLUDING LOCAL KURIER AND SCRIPPS-HOWARD, REQUESTED AND RECEIVED INTERVIEWS ON THESE SUBJECTS WITH MEMBER OF US DEL. THE TWO CONCEPTS WERE ALSO SUPPORTED BY DG IN HIS STATEMENT, AND STATEMENTS BY A NUMBER OF DELEGATED IN GENERAL DEBATE (E.G., US, UK, USSR, PHILIPPINES, ROK, NETHERLANDS, SOVIET BLOC, FINLAND, MALAYSIA) EXPRESSED INTEREST AND ENDORSED AGENCY'S MOVING AHEAD IN STUDIES OF THESE AREAS OF CONCERN (SEE SEPTTEL FOR ADDITIONAL VIEWS EXPRESSED INFORMALLY TO SECRETARIAT BY VARIOUS DELS).

3. REFLECTING DEBATE AT MAY, 1975 NPT REVCON, THERE WERE MANY STATEMENTS IN GENERAL DEBATE SUPPORTING IAEA'S ROLE IN IMPLEMENTING SAFEGUARDS AND IN PNE SERVICES. A NUMBER OF NPT PARTIES REITERATED POSITIONS MADE AT GENEVA CALLING FOR APPLICATION OF SAFEGUARDS TO ALL NUCLEAR ACTIVITIES IN NNWS'S NOT PARTY TO NPT AND FOR VARIOUS MODALITIES OF GIVING PREFERENCE TO NPT PARTIES IN PROVISION OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE THROUGH AGENCY. SEVERAL NON-PARTIES, HOWEVER, REJECTED CONCEPT OF "DISCRIMINATION" IN PROVISION OF TA AND CRITICIZED AGENCY FOR LAYING TOO MUCH STRESS ON SAFEGUARDS AS COMPARED TO TA (INDIA, PAKISTAN, INDONESIA).

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4. SUBSTANCE OF WORK WAS PERFORMED IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE (REF B). UNDER ABLE AND BUSINESSLIKE CHAIRMANSHIP OF MALAYSIAN AMB. LIM, WORK OF THIS GROUP ON BUDGET AND FISCAL ITEMS (INCLUDING ADOPTION OF US-INITIATED RESOLUTION ON PHYSICAL PROTECTION) PROCEEDED SMOOTHLY AND WAS COMPLETED IN RECORD 4 HOURS. THIS GRATIFIED MANY DELEGATES WHO WERE UNAWARE HOW NEW COMMITTEE STRUCTURE WOULD WORK AND WHO RECALLED

LENGTHLY DEBATES AND CUMBERSOME PROCEDURES FOLLOWED IN PAST YEARS WHEN TWO SEPARATE COMMITTEES CONSIDERED THESE MATTERS. AT SAME TIME, DELEGATES THEMSELVES EXERCISED RESTRAINT IN COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS. WHILE HARDY ANNUALS SUCH AS SAFEGUARDS FINANCING AND FINANCING OF TA FROM REGULAR BUDGET RECEIVED USUAL LITURGICAL HOMAGE FROM USUAL SOURCES, POSTURING ON DIVISIVE ISSUES WAS SINGULARLY ABSENT.

5. POLITICS CLEARLY WAS NOT ABSENT FROM GC PROCEEDINGS, AS WITNESS BG ELECTION. PRINCIPLE OF REGIONAL CANDIDACY NONETHELESS SURVIVED. WITH REGARD TO EXTRANEIOUS POLITICAL ISSUES, IT CANNOT BE DENIED THAT THESE MATTERS INTRUDED INTO GC TO A GREATER EXTENT THAN IN RECENT YEARS. CONDEMNATION OF SOUTH AFRICA, WHILE KEPT FROM FLOOR DURING GC WAS NONETHELESS SUBJECT OF A GC DOCUMENT. ATTACK ON US BY DPRK WAS UNPRECEDENTED. ON THE OTHER HAND, MORE TROUBLESOME ISSUE OF PLO OBSERVER STATUS WAS SCOTCHED (SEPTEL) AND SECRETARIAT APPARENTLY PERSUADED DEL OF TURKEY THAT IT WOULD BE UNWISE TO CHALLENGE CREDENTIALS OF DEL FROM CYPRUS. HOWEVER, WHILE DELEGATES LARGELY RESISTED ONCE AGAIN URGE BY SOME TO CONVERT AGENCY'S GOVERNING ORGAN INTO POLITICAL AREA, MISSION BELIEVES IT WOULD BE OVER-SANGUINE TO EXPECT THAT AGENCY CAN REMAIN COMPLETELY IMMUNE IN FUTURE TO POLITICAL CURRENTS WHICH HAVE ALREADY DISRUPTED CONSTRUCTIVE WORK OF OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS.

6. FINALLY, GC WAS A SUCCESS, FROM STANDPOINT OF US INTERESTS, IN COMPOSITION OF USDEL. DURING THEIR STAY, ERDA ADMINISTRATOR SEAMANS AND ASST. ADMINISTRATOR SIEVERING, NRC COMMISSIONERS KENNEDY AND ROWDEN, UNCLASSIFIED

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AND OES ACTING ASSISTANT SECRETARY KRATZER WERE INTRODUCED TO ALL DELEGATES, TIP IAEA STAFF AND LOCAL MISSIONS AT US RECEPTION INAUGURATING BALLROOM OF NEW HILTON. MISSION IS STILL RECEIVING COMPLIMENTS FROM OTHER MISSIONS ON SUCCESS AND UTILITY OF THIS EVENT WHICH, ALONG WITH EXTENSIVE BILATERAL DISCUSSIONS, AFFORDED MAXIMUM OPPORTUNITY FOR CONSULTATIONS BY LEADING MEMBERS OF USDEL WITH THEIR COLLEAGUES IN IAEA AND FROM OTHER MEMBER STATES, MANY FOR FIRST TIME. TAPE

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